

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) An internal treatment apparatus for a patient having a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body comprising:

a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and disposed at a center of an end face of said flexible tubular body; and

a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided in said flexible tubular body at equi-angular intervals around said center opening.

2. (Withdrawn) An internal treatment system for a patient comprising:

a flexible tubular body, to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and disposed at a center of an end face of said flexible tubular body, and a plurality of circumferential apertures through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, said plurality of circumferential apertures being provided in said flexible tubular body at equi-angular intervals around said center opening;

a body manipulating device for manipulating said flexible tubular body from outside said patient;

an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating said endoscope from outside said patient; and

a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating said surgical instruments from outside said patient.

3-4. Canceled

5. (Currently Amended) An internal treatment apparatus for a patient comprising a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body comprising:

a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening extending through said flexible tubular body from a center of a distal end face of said flexible tubular body, said distal end face facing said target site, and

a plurality of circumferential ~~apertures~~ holes through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, each of said plurality of circumferential ~~apertures~~ holes being provided to extend through a side face of said flexible tubular body at said distal end face of said flexible tubular body so that each of said plurality of circumferential holes is independent from said distal end face, and each of said plurality of circumferential holes is distinct from said center opening.

6. (Currently Amended) An internal treatment system for a patient comprising:

a flexible tubular body to be introduced into a patient, said flexible tubular body including a center opening for inserting therethrough an endoscope for observing a target site, said center opening being circular in cross section and extending through said flexible tubular

body from a center of a distal end face of said flexible tubular body, said distal end face facing said target site, and a plurality of circumferential ~~apertures~~ holes through which surgical instruments are inserted for performing a surgical procedure on said target site, each of said plurality of circumferential ~~apertures~~ holes being provided to extend through a side face of said flexible tubular body at said distal end ~~face~~ of said flexible tubular body, so that each of said plurality of circumferential holes is independent from said distal end face, and each of said plurality of circumferential holes is distinct from said center opening;

a body manipulating device for manipulating said flexible tubular body from outside said patient;

an endoscope manipulating device for manipulating said endoscope from outside said patient; and

a surgical instrument manipulating device for manipulating said surgical instruments from outside said patient.

7. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, wherein said endoscope is a stereoscopic endoscope allowing an operator to stereoscopically observe the target site.

8. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises a monitor device allowing an operator to observe a vicinity of a distal end of said surgical instrument.

9. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 8, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises an illumination device which allows an operator to illuminate a vicinity of said distal end of said surgical instrument with light.

10. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 9, wherein said surgical instrument comprises at least one of an air feed device and a water feed device which allows an operator to clean a distal end of said monitor device.

11. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, further comprising an image displaying device for displaying an image formed by said endoscope.

12. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

13. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 1, wherein said surgical instrument comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

14-19. Canceled

20. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, wherein

said endoscope is a stereoscopic endoscope allowing an operator to stereoscopically observe the target site.

21. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises a monitor device which allows an operator to observe a vicinity of a distal end of said surgical instrument.

22. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 21, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises an illumination device which allows an operator to illuminate a vicinity of said distal end of said surgical instrument with light.

23. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 22, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises at least one of an air feed device and a water feed device which allows an operator to clean a distal end of said monitor means.

24. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, further comprising an image displaying device for displaying an image provided by said endoscope.

25. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, wherein

said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

26. (Withdrawn) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 2, wherein

said surgical instrument comprises a resiliently deflectable portion.

27-34. Canceled

35. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment apparatus for a patient according to claim 5, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion, and a circumferential opening portion includes said plurality of circumferential ~~apertures~~ holes, and the circumferential opening portion passes through the apparatus body from a side face of the deflectable portion toward a proximal end face of the apparatus body.

36. (Currently Amended) The internal treatment system for a patient according to claim 6, wherein said flexible tubular body comprises a resiliently deflectable portion, and a circumferential opening portion includes said plurality of circumferential ~~apertures~~ holes, and the circumferential opening portion passes through the apparatus body from a side face of the deflectable portion toward a proximal end face of the apparatus body.